GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1716
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2003
INDIA`S SUPPORT TO US TO RESOLVE TRADE TALKS AT WTO
GADDE RAMAMOHAN;NIVEDITA MANE

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United States of America has sought India`s support to resolve the impasse on trade talks at the World Trade Organisation following the collapse of the Cancun ministerial summit; and

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government on the request of United States of America?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI S. B. MOOKHERJEE)

(a) to (c): In accordance with the mandate given by the WTO Ministers at Cancun in the final MinisterialStatement adopted at the conclusion of the Conference on 14 September, 2003, the Chairman of the General Council,in close coordination with the Director General of the WTO, is coordinating the work on outstanding issues withregard to the meeting of the General Council at the senior official level in Geneva on 15 December, 2003. All Membersincluding the United States and India are involved in exploring ways of reviving the process of negotiations under the Doha Work Programme. India is participating in all the informal consultations in this regard and is also interacting with other Members with a view to facilitating the process. We have been emphasizing that only a balanced and fair outcome, taking into account the concerns of the entire Membership, would be sustainable and that this would require genuine commitment by all Members to re-start the multilateral process.